

INTAKE/REFERRAL PROCESS

1. The potential applicant then turns their **Mental Health Court Referral Packet** and **supporting documents** in to the Pennington County Mental Health Court, in the Court Services Office of the Pennington County Courthouse
2. The mental health court team screens the potential applicant for SPMI eligibility
3. The Mental Health Court Prosecutor screens potential applicants for legal eligibility
4. The Mental Health Court Prosecutor makes a formal written offer to eligible applicants through their defense attorney
5. The applicant enters guilty plea(s) and/or probation violation admission(s) and their defense attorney then signs them up for a Presentence Investigation (PSI)
6. The applicant and their defense attorney meet with the Mental Health Court Defense Attorney to complete the **Mental Health Court Waivers and Consent**
7. The applicant meets with a Court Services Officer (CSO) for a **Presentence Investigation (PSI)** and **Level of Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R)** risk/needs assessment
8. The Mental Health Court team discusses the applicant's information and the Mental Health Court Judge decides whether to accept or deny the application

PENNINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT TEAM

Honorable Jeff Connolly (Judge)
Ashlee May (Coordinator)
Tim Snyder (Prosecutor)
Ashley Parr (Defense Attorney)
Adam Ohman (Court Services)
Aimee Janvrin (Mental Health Treatment)
Ashli Merchen (Recovery Coach)
Kristi Fischer (Recovery Coach)
Amanda Whelchel (Addiction Treatment)
Captain Casey Munsch (Pennington County Jail)

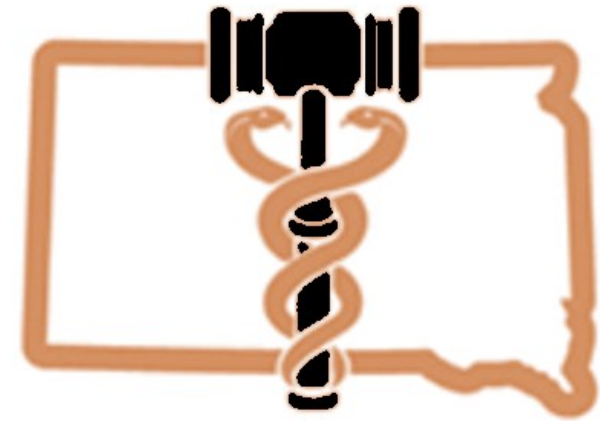
**You are welcome to observe the
Pennington County
Mental Health Court.
Court sessions are held at
3:00PM every Tuesday in the
Pennington County Courthouse.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions or want to learn more about the Pennington County Mental Health Court program, please contact:

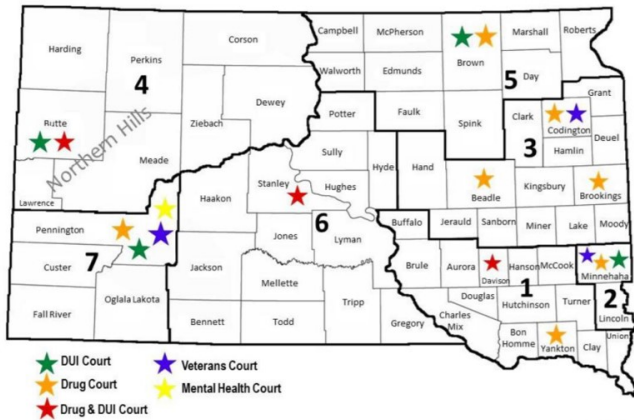
**Coordinator Ashlee May
at (605) 394-2595 or
Ashlee.May@ujs.state.sd.us**

PENNINGTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT



315 St Joseph Street
PO Box 230
Rapid City, SD
(605) 394-2595

Problem Solving Courts Map
South Dakota Unified Judicial System



WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Mental Health Court and other Problem-Solving Courts are considered the most effective strategy for reducing addiction, crime, and recidivism while saving taxpayer dollars. There are more than 4,000 nationwide. They help participants break the cycle of addiction and mental illness, deliver services for lifelong recovery, keep our roads safe from impaired drivers, give parents tools they need to stay sober and maintain custody of their children, and divert individuals from a life of substance abuse, mental illness and crime. They have been proven to reduce use of jail or prison beds, emergency room admissions, family conflicts associated with domestic violence and child abuse, and foster care placements.

MISSION

The mission of the Pennington County Mental Health Court program is to enhance public safety and improve the quality of life for participants, their families and communities by holding participants accountable through a judicially monitored regimen of supervision and treatment to promote long-term recovery.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

The Pennington County Mental Health Court, established in 2019, is a post-adjudication treatment court for offenders who are severely and persistently mentally ill.

Mental Health Court is a voluntary program that provides intensive supervision and treatment services. Participants are held accountable through regular appearances before the Mental Health Court judge, frequent and random drug and alcohol testing, mental health treatment, medication management, addiction treatment as needed, behavior modification based on incentives and sanctions, and intense community supervision by the Mental Health Court team.

Pennington County Mental Health Court is a 5-phase intervention program with specific goals and activities required in each phase. Each phase helps participants grow and heal. Once phase requirements are met, transition to the next phase will occur with approval from the Mental Health Court Judge. The program length differs for each participant, but is no less than 14 months.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Meets SPMI Criteria
- ✓ Diagnosed with a thought or mood disorder
- ✓ Would benefit from medication stabilization as one of the primary treatment interventions
- ✓ At least 18 years of age
- ✓ Facing criminal charges and eligible for probation
- ✓ Willing to maintain residency restrictions

PROGRAM GOALS

- ◆ Help participants achieve **RECOVERY**, not just sobriety
- ◆ Give participants the chance to break the cycle of mental illness and/or addiction and crime
- ◆ Give participants the tools to change their lives by improving their emotional/mental, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual wellbeing
- ◆ Increase participants length of involvement in treatment and other maintenance systems
- ◆ Connect participants with positive support networks within the community
- ◆ Increase public safety
- ◆ Reduce incarceration time
- ◆ Reduce recidivism

